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10	UNITED STA	ATE	S DISTRICT COURT		
11	CENTRAL DIS	L DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA			
12	CENTER FOR COMMUNITY	ı	Case No.		
13	ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTA	L	Case 140.		
14	JUSTICE, a non-profit corporation,				
	DI : (:60		COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY.		
15	Plaintiff,		AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND CIVIL PENALTIES		
16	vs.				
17					
18	NEWBASIS WEST LLC, a Delawa corporation,	ire	(Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 to 1387)		
19	corporation,		33 0.3.e. gg 1231 to 1367)		
20	Defendant.				
21					
22	CENTED EOD COMMUNITY	V A	CTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL		
23					
24	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	ion-p	profit corporation, by and through its counsel,		
25	hereby alleges:				
	I. <u>JURISDICTION AND VEN</u>	<u>UE</u>			
26	1. This is a civil suit broug	1. This is a civil suit brought under the citizen suit enforcement provisions			
27	of the Federal Water Pollution Contr	of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1251, et seq. (the "Clean			
28					
	COMPLAINT		1		

II. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

5. This complaint seeks leli ef for Defendant's discharges of polluted storm

Water Act" or "the Act"). This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this action pursuant to Section 505(a)(1)(A) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a)(1)(A), and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (an action arising under the laws of the United States). The relief requested is authorized pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-02 (power to issue declaratory relief in case of actual controversy and further necessary relief based on such a declaration); 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(b), 1365(a) (injunctive relief); and 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(d), 1365(a) (civil penalties).

- 2. On August 16, 2016, Plaintiff provided notice of Defendant's violations of the Act, and of Plaintiff's intention to file suit against Defendant, to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"); the Administrator of EPA Region IX; the Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board ("State Board"); the Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region ("Regional Board"); and to Defendant, as required by the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(b)(1)(A). A true and correct copy of CCAEJ's notice letter is attached as Exhibit A, and is incorporated by reference.
- 3. More than sixty days have passed since notice was served on Defendant and the State and federal agencies. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that neither the EPA nor the State of California has commenced or is diligently prosecuting a court action to redress the violations alleged in this complaint. This action's claim for civil penalties is not barred by any prior administrative penalty under Section 309(g) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g).
- 4. Venue is proper in the Central District of California pursuant to Section 505(c)(1) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(c)(1), because the source of the violations is located within this judicial district.

water from Defendant's industrial facility located at 2626 Kansas Ave. in Riverside, California ("Facility") in violation of the Act and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") Permit No. CAS000001, State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 97-03-DWQ ("1997 Permit"), as renewed by Water Quality Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ ("2015 Permit") (the permits are collectively referred to hereinafter as the "Permit" or "General Permit"). Defendant's violations of the discharge, treatment technology, monitoring requirements, and other procedural and substantive requirements of the Permit and the Act are ongoing and continuous.

III. PARTIES

- 6. Plaintiff CCAEJ is a non-profit public benefit corporation under the laws of the State of California with its main office in Jurupa Valley, California. CCAEJ is dedicated to working with communities to advocate for environmental justice and pollution prevention. CCAEJ and its members are deeply concerned with protecting the environment in and around their communities, including the Santa Ana River Watershed. To further these goals, CCAEJ actively seeks federal and state agency implementation of the Act and other laws and, where necessary, directly initiates enforcement actions on behalf of itself and its members.
- 7. CCAEJ has members living in the community adjacent to the Facility and the Santa Ana River Watershed. They enjoy using the Santa Ana River for recreation and other activities. Members of CCAEJ use and enjoy the waters into which Defendant has caused, is causing, and will continue to cause, pollutants to be discharged. Members of CCAEJ use those areas to recreate and view wildlife, among other things. Defendant's discharges of pollutants threaten or impair each of those uses or contribute to such threats and impairments. Thus, the interests of CCAEJ's members have been, are being, and will continue to be adversely affected by Defendant's failure to comply with the Clean Water Act and the Permit. The relief sought herein will

redress the harms to Plaintiff caused by Defendant's activities.

- 8. CCAEJ brings this action on behalf of its members. CCAEJ's interest in reducing Defendant's discharges of pollutants into the Santa Ana River and its tributaries and requiring Defendant to comply with the requirements of the General Permit are germane to its purposes. Litigation of the claims asserted and relief requested in this Complaint does not require the participation in this lawsuit of individual members of CCAEJ.
- 9. Continuing commission of the acts and omissions alleged above will irreparably harm Plaintiff and one or more of its members, for which harm they have no plain, speedy or adequate remedy at law.
- 10. Defendant NEWBASIS WEST LLC ("NewBasis") is a corporation that operates the Facility that is at issue in this action.

IV. STATUTORY BACKGROUND

- 11. Section 301(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), prohibits the discharge of any pollutant into waters of the United States, unless such discharge is in compliance with various enumerated sections of the Act. Among other things, Section 301(a) prohibits discharges not authorized by, or in violation of, the terms of an NPDES permit issued pursuant to Section 402 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.
- 12. Section 402(p) of the Act establishes a framework for regulating municipal and industrial storm water discharges under the NPDES program. 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p). States with approved NPDES permit programs are authorized by Section 402(p) to regulate industrial storm water discharges through individual permits issued to dischargers or through the issuance of a single, statewide general permit applicable to all industrial storm water dischargers. 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p).
- 13. Pursuant to Section 402 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, the Administrator of the U.S. EPA has authorized California's State Board to issue NPDES permits including general NPDES permits in California.

General Permit

- 14. The State Board elected to issue a statewide general permit for industrial storm water discharges. The State Board originally issued the General Permit on or about November 19, 1991. The State Board modified the General Permit on or about September 17, 1992. Pertinent to this action, the State Board reissued the General Permit on or about April 17, 1997 (the "1997 Permit"), and again on or about April 1, 2014 (the "2015 Permit"), pursuant to Section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p). The 1997 Permit was in effect between 1997 and June 30, 2015. The 2015 Permit went into effect on July 1, 2015. The 2015 Permit maintains or makes more stringent the same requirements as the 1997 Permit.
- 15. In order to discharge storm water lawfully in California, industrial dischargers must comply with the terms of the General Permit or have obtained and complied with an individual NPDES permit. 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a).
- 16. The General Permit contains several prohibitions. Effluent Limitation B(3) of the 1997 Permit and Effluent Limitation V(A) of the 2015 Permit require dischargers to reduce or prevent pollutants in their storm water discharges through implementation of the Best Available Technology Economically Achievable ("BAT") for toxic and nonconventional pollutants and the Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology ("BCT") for conventional pollutants. Discharge Prohibition A(2) of the 1997 Permit and Discharge Prohibition III(C) of the 2015 Permit prohibit storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges that cause or threaten to cause pollution, contamination, or nuisance. Receiving Water Limitation C(1) of the 1997 Permit and Receiving Water Limitation VI(B) of the 2015 Permit prohibit storm water discharges to any surface or ground water that adversely impact human health or the environment. Receiving Water Limit ation C(2) of the 1997 Permit and Receiving Water Limitation VI(A) and Discharge Prohibition III(D) of the 2015 Permit prohibit storm water discharges that cause or contribute to an exceedance of any applicable

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water quality standards contained in Statewide Water Quality Control Plan or the applicable Regional Board's Basin Plan.

- 17. In addition to absolute prohibitions, the General Permit contains a variety of substantive and procedural requirements that dischargers must meet. Facilities discharging, or having the potential to discharge, storm water associated with industrial activity that have not obtained an individual NPDES permit must apply for coverage under the State's General Permit by filing a Notice of Intent to Comply ("NOI"). Dischargers have been required to file NOIs since March 30, 1992.
- Dischargers must develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution 18. Prevention Plan ("SWPPP"). The SWPPP must describe storm water control facilities and measures that comply with the BAT and BCT standards. The General Permit requires that an initial SWPPP has been developed and implemented before October 1, 1992. The objective of the SWPPP requirement is to identify and evaluate sources of pollutants associated with industrial activities that may affect the quality of storm water discharges and authorized non-stormwater discharges from the facility, and to implement best management practices ("BMPs") to reduce or prevent pollutants associated with industrial activities in storm water discharges and authorized nonstorm water discharges. See 1997 Permit, § A(2); 2015 Permit, § X(C). These BMPs must achieve compliance with the General Permit's effluent limitations and receiving water limitations, including the BAT and BCT technology mandates. To ensure compliance with the General Permit, the SWPPP must be evaluated and revised as necessary. 1997 Permit, §§ A(9), (10); 2015 Permit, § X(B). Failure to develop or implement an adequate SWPPP, or update or revise an existing SWPPP as required, is a violation of the General Permit. 2015 Permit, Fact Sheet § I(1).
- 19. Sections A(3)-A(10) of the 1997 Permit set forth the requirements for a SWPPP. Among other requirements, the SWPPP must include: a pollution prevention team; a site map; a list of significant materials handled and stored at the site; a

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27 28 description of potential pollutant sources; an assessment of potential pollutant sources; and a description of the BMPs to be implemented at the facility that will reduce or prevent pollutants in storm water discharges and authorized non-stormwater discharges, including structural BMPs where non-structural BMPs are not effective. Sections X(D) - X(I) of the 2015 Permit set forth essentially the same SWPPP requirements as the 1997 Permit, except that all dischargers are now required to develop and implement a set of minimum BMPs, as well as any advanced BMPs as necessary to achieve BAT/BCT, which serve as the basis for compliance with the 2015 Permit's technology-based effluent limitations and receiving water limitations. See 2015 Permit, § X(H). The 2015 Permit further requires a more comprehensive assessment of potential pollutant sources than the 1997 Permit; more specific BMP descriptions; and an additional BMP summary table identifying each identified area of industrial activity, the associated industrial pollutant sources, the industrial pollutants, and the BMPs being implemented. See 2015 Permit, §§ X(G)(2), (4), (5). Section X(E) of the 2015 Permit requires that the SWPPP map depict, *inter alia*, all storm water discharge locations.

20. The 2015 Permit requires dischargers to implement and maintain, to the extent feasible, all of the following minimum BMPs in order to reduce or prevent pollutants in industrial storm water discharges: good housekeeping, preventive maintenance, spill and leak prevention and response, material handling and waste management, erosion and sediment controls, an employee training program, and quality assurance and record keeping. See 2015 Permit, § X(H)(1). Failure to implement all of these minimum BMPs is a violation of the 2015 Permit. See 2015 Permit, Fact Sheet § I(2)(o). The 2015 Permit further requires dischargers to implement and maintain, to the extent feasible, any one or more of the following advanced BMPs necessary to reduce or prevent discharges of pollutants in industrial storm water discharges: exposure minimization BMPs, storm water containment and

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discharge reduction BMPs, treatment control BMPs, and other advanced BMPs. See 2015 Permit, § X(H)(2). Failure to implement advanced BMPs as necessary to achieve compliance with either technology or water quality standards is a violation of the 2015 Permit. *Id.* The 2015 Permit also requires that the SWPPP include BMP descriptions and a BMP Summary Table. *See* 2015 Permit, § X(H)(4), (5).

- The General Permit requires dischargers to develop and implement an 21. adequate written Monitoring and Reporting Program. The primary objective of the Monitoring and Reporting Program is to detect and measure the concentrations of pollutants in a facility's discharge to ensure compliance with the General Permit's discharge prohibitions, effluent limitations, and receiving water limitations. As part of their monitoring program, dischargers must identify all storm water discharge locations that produce a significant storm water discharge, evaluate the effectiveness of BMPs in reducing pollutant loading, and evaluate whether pollution control measures set out in the SWPPP are adequate and properly implemented. The 1997 Permit required dischargers to collect storm water samples during the first hour of discharge from the first storm event of the wet season, and at least one other storm event during the wet season, from all storm water discharge locations at a facility. See 1997 Permit, § B(5). The 2015 Permit now mandates that facility operators sample four (rather than two) storm water discharges from all discharge locations over the course of the reporting year. See 2015 Permit, §§ XI(B)(2), (3).
- 22. Facilities are required to make monthly visual observations of storm water discharges. The visual observations must represent the quality and quantity of the facility's storm water discharges from the storm event. 1997 Permit, § B(7); 2015 Permit, § XI.A.
- 23. Section XI(B)(2) of the 2015 Permit requires that dischargers collect and analyze storm water samples from two qualifying storm events ("QSEs") during the first half of each reporting year (July 1 to December 31) and two QSEs during the

second half of each reporting year (January 1 to June 30).

- 24. Under the 1997 Permit, facilities must analyze storm water samples for "toxic chemicals and other pollutants that are likely to be present in storm water discharges in significant quantities." 1997 Permit, § B(5)(c)(ii). Under the 2015 Permit, facilities must analyze storm water samples for "[a]dditional parameters identified by the Discharger on a facility-specific basis that serve as indicators of the presence of all industrial pollutants identified in the pollutant source assessment." 2015 Permit, § XI(B)(6)(c).
- 25. Section B(14) of the 1997 Permit requires dischargers to include laboratory reports with their Annual Reports submitted to the Regional Board. This requirement is continued with the 2015 Permit. Fact Sheet, Paragraph O.
- 26. The 1997 Permit, in relevant part, requires that the Annual Report include an Annual Comprehensive Site Compliance Evaluation Report ("ACSCE Report"). 1997 Permit, § B(14). As part of the ACSCE Report, the facility operator must review and evaluate all of the BIMPs to determine whether they are adequate or whether SWPPP revisions are needed. The Annual Report must be signed and certified by a duly authorized representative, under penalty of law that the information submitted is true, accurate, and complete to the best of his or her knowledge. The 2015 Permit now requires operator; to conduct an Annual Comprehensive Facility Compliance Evaluation ("Annual Evaluation") that evaluates the effectiveness of current BMPs and the need for additional BMPs based on visual observations and sampling and analysis results. See 20 15 Permit, § XV.
- 27. The General Permit does not provide for any mixing zones by dischargers. The General Permit does not provide for any receiving water dilution credits to be applied by dischargers.

Basin Plan

28. The Regional Board has identified beneficial uses of the Santa Ana

Region's waters and established water quality standards for the Santa Ana River and

The beneficial uses of these waters include, among others, groundwater

its tributaries in the "Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin

recharge, water contact recreation, non-contact water recreation, wildlife habitat,

warm freshwater habitat, and rare, threatened or endangered species. The non-contact

water recreation use is defined as "[u]ses of water for recreational activities involving

(Region 8)," generally referred to as the Basin Plan.

proximity to water, but not normally involving contact with water where water ingestion is reasonably possible. These uses include, but are not limited to, picnicking, sunbathing, hiking, beach combing, camping, boating, tidepool and marine life study, hunting, sightseeing, or aesithetic enjoyment in conjunction with the above activities."

30. The Basin Plan includes a narrative toxicity standard which states that

- 30. The Basin Plan includes a narrative toxicity standard which states that "[t]oxic substances shall not be discharged at levels that will bioaccumulate in aquatic resources to levels which are harmful to human health."
- 31. The Basin Plan includes a narrative oil and grease standard which states that "[w]aste discharges shall not result in deposition of oil, grease, wax, or other material in concentrations which result in a visible film or in coating objects in the water, or which cause a nuisance or a dversely affect beneficial uses."
- 32. The Basin Plan includes a narrative suspended and settleable solids standard which states that "Inland surface waters shall not contain suspended or settleable solids in amounts which cause a nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses..."
- 33. The Basin Plan provices that "[t]he pH of inland surface waters shall not be raised above 8.5 or depressed belo w 6.5..."
- 34. The Basin Plan contains a narrative floatables standard which states that '[w]aste discharges shall not contain floating materials, including solids, liquids, foam

or scum, which cause a nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses."

- 35. The Basin Plan contains a narrative color standard which states that "[w]aste discharges shall not result in coloration of the receiving waters which causes a nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses."
- 36. EPA has established Parameter Benchmark Values as guidelines for determining whether a facility discharging industrial storm water has implemented the requisite BAT and BCT. These benchmarks represent pollutant concentrations at which a storm water discharge could potentially impair, or contribute to impairing, water quality, or affect human health from ingestion of water or fish. The following EPA benchmarks have been established for pollution parameters applicable to the Facility: pH 6.0 9.0 standard units ("s.u."); total suspended solids ("TSS") 100 mg/L; oil and grease ("O&G") 15 mg/L; and iron 1.0 mg/L.
- Numeric Action Levels ("NALs"). The 2015 Permit in the form of Numeric Action Levels ("NALs"). The 2015 Permit incorporates annual NALs, which reflect the 2008 MSGP benchmark values, and instantaneous maximum NALs, which are derived from a Water Board dataset. The following annual NALs have been established under the 2015 Permit: TSS 100 mg/L; O&G 15 mg/L; and iron 1.0 mg/L. An exceedance of annual NALs occurs when the average of all samples obtained for an entire facility during a single reporting year is greater than a particular annual NAL. The reporting year runs from July 1 to June 30. The 2015 Permit also establishes the following instantaneous maximum NALs: pH 6.0-9.0 s.u.; TSS 400 mg/L; and O&G 25 mg/L. An instantaneous maximum NAL exceedance occurs when two or more analytical results from samples taken for any single parameter within a reporting year exceed the instantaneous maximum NAL value (for TSS and O&G) or are outside of the instantaneous maximum NAL range for pH. When a discharger exceeds an applicable NAL, it is elevated to "Level 1 Status," which requires a revision of the SWPPP and additional BMPs. If a discharger exceeds an

 applicable NAL during Level 1 Status, it is then elevated to "Level 2 Status." For Level 2 Status, a discharger is required to submit an Action Plan requiring a demonstration of either additional BMPs to prevent exceedances, a determination that the exceedance is solely due to non-industrial pollutant sources, or a determination that the exceedance is solely due to the presence of the pollutant in the natural background.

38. Section 505(a)(1) and Section 505(f) of the Act provide for citizen enforcement actions against any "person," including individuals, corporations, or partnerships, for violations of NPDES permit requirements. 33 U.S.C. §§1365(a)(1) and (f), § 1362(5). An action for injunctive relief under the Act is authorized by 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a). Violators of the Act are also subject to an assessment of civil penalties of up to \$37,500 per day per violation, pursuant to Sections 309(d) and 505 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(d), 1365. See also 40 C.F.R. §§ 19.1 - 19.4.

V. <u>STATEMENT OF FACTS</u>

- 39. Defendant NewBasis owns and/or operates the Facility, a 275,000 square foot industrial site located within the City of Riverside.
- 40. The Facility falls within Standard Industrial Classification ("SIC") Code 3272.
- 41. Based on CCAEJ's investigation, including a review of the Facility's Notice of Intent to Comply with the Terms of the Industrial General Permit ("NOI"), SWPPP, aerial photography, and CCAEJ's information and belief, storm water is collected and discharged from the Facility through a series of channels that discharge via at least four outfalls. The outfalls discharge storm water and pollutants contained in that storm water to channels that flow into the Santa Ana River. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that pollutants discharged from the Facility flow into the river at stretches identified as Reach 3 or Reach 4.
 - 42. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that the storm

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water flows over the surface of the Facility where industrial activities occur including storage areas, casting stations, mixing areas, grinding stations, truck loading docks, shipping and receiving areas, and areas where airborne materials associated with the industrial processes at the Facility may settle onto the ground. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that storm water flowing over these areas collects suspended sediment, dirt, metals, and other pollutants as it flows towards the storm water discharge locations.

- 43. On information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that the majority of storm water discharges from the Facility contain storm water that is commingled with runoff from areas at the Facility where incustrial processes occur.
- There are no structura storm water control measures installed at the 44. Facility. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that the management practices at the Facility are currently inadequate to prevent the sources of contamination described above from causing the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States. The Facility lacks sufficient structural controls such as grading, berming, roofing, containment, or drainage structures to prevent rainfall and storm water flows from coming into contact with exposed areas of contaminants. The Facility lacks sufficient structural controls to prevent the discharge of water once contaminated. The Facility lacks adequate storm water pollution treatment technologies to treat storm water once: contaminated.
- Since at least January 24, 2013, Defendant has taken samples or arranged 45. for samples to be taken of storm water discharges at the Facility. The sample results were reported in the Facility's Annual Reports submitted to the Regional Board. Defendant certified each of those Annual Reports pursuant to the General Permit.
- In Annual Reports and storm water sampling results submitted to the 46. Regional Board for the past four years, the Facility has consistently reported high pollutant levels from its storm water sampling results.

47. The Facility has reported numerous discharges outside of the range of the numeric water quality standard for pH of 6.5 – 8.5 established in the Basin Plan. Defendant measured storm water discharges with a pH level below 6.5 on the following dates: January 5, 2016; September 15, 2016; December 2, 2014; and February 28, 2014. These measurements have thus violated numeric water quality standards established in the Basin Plan and have thus violated Discharge Prohibition A(2) and Receiving Water Limitations C(1) and C(2) of the 1997 Permit; Discharge Prohibitions III(C) and III(D) and Receiving Water Limitations VI(A) and VI(B) of the 2015 Permit; and are evidence of ongoing violations of Effluent Limitation B(3) of the 1997 Permit and Effluent Limitation V(A) of the 2015 Permit.

- the benchmark value and annual NAL for TSS of 100 mg/L established by EPA and the State Board, respectively, and the instantaneous NAL value for TSS of 400 mg/L established by the State Board. For example, on September 15, 2015, the level of TSS measured by Defendant at one of its coutfalls was 619 mg/L. That level of TSS is over 6 times the benchmark value and annual NAL for TSS. Defendant also has measured levels of TSS in storm water discharged from the Facility in excess of 100 mg/L on March 11, 2016; January 5, 2016; December 12, 2014; December 2, 2014; November 21, 2013; February 8, 2013; and January 24, 2013.
- 49. The levels of iron in sorm water detected by the Facility have exceeded the benchmark value and annual NAL. for iron of 1 mg/L established by EPA and the State Board, respectively. For example, on September 15, 2015, the level of iron measured by Defendant from one of i ts outfalls was 26.1 mg/L. That level of iron is over 26 times the benchmark value and annual NAL for iron. Defendant also has measured levels of iron in storm water discharged from the Facility in excess of 1 mg/L on March 11, 2016; January 5, :2016; December 12, 2014; December 2, 2014; February 28, 2014; November 21, 20 13; February 8, 2013; and January 24, 2013.

- 50. The levels of O&G in storm water detected by the Facility have exceeded the benchmark value and annual NAL for O&G of 15 mg/L established by EPA and the State Board, respectively. For example, on November 21, 2013, the level of O&G measured by Defendant at one of its outfalls was 28.8 mg/L. That level of O&G is almost twice the benchmark value and annual NAL for O&G. Defendant also measured levels of O&G in storm water discharged from the Facility in excess of 15 mg/L on December 12, 2014.
- 51. On information and belief. CCAEJ alleges that during the 2011-2012 wet season, NewBasis failed to collect and analyze samples from any storm water discharges from the Facility. CCAEJ alleges that Defendant has failed to collect and analyze storm water discharges from the Facility the following dates: October 5, 2011; November 4, 2011; December 12, 2011; February 15, 2012; February 27, 2012; April 11, 2012; and April 26, 2012.
- 52. On information and belief, CCAEJ alleges that NewBasis is presently sampling storm water discharges from the wrong location, with respect to one of its outfalls. The current SWPPP map for the Facility indicates that the storm water discharge point marked "X-4" is located in the northeast corner of Building No. 2. However, a map included with the Facility's 2013-2013 Annual Report locates outfall "X-4" at the southwest corner of Building No. 1. On information and belief, CCAEJ alleges that the northeast corner of Building No. 2 is not representative of the Facility's storm water discharges because this location fails to account for the storm water that flows past resin tanks, the grinding station, and hazardous waste storage which are all areas of industrial activity.
- 53. On information and belief, CCAEJ alleges that NewBasis failed to conduct monthly visual observations of storm water discharges during numerous months during the past five years. Based on precipitation data compared to the dates in which the Facility did conduct monthly visual observation of storm water discharges, CCAEJ alleges that NewBasis failed to conduct monthly visual

observations of storm water discharges at its storm water discharge locations on numerous occasions. CCAEJ alleges that Defendant has failed to conduct monthly visual observations of storm water discharges from the Facility on the following months: October 2011, November 2011, December 2011, February 2012, April 2012, October 2012, December 2012, May 2013, October 2013, April 2014, November 2014, and January 2015.

- 54. On April 27, 2015, and May 11, 2015, the Facility reported visual observations of storm water discharges, but, on information and belief, CCAEJ alleges that no discharges occurred at the Facility on those dates. Therefore, CCAEJ alleges that NewBasis failed to conduct monthly visual observations at the Facility during those months.
- 55. On information and belief, CCAEJ alleges that NewBasis has consistently failed to comply with Section B(14) of the 1997 Permit, and Section XV of the 2015 Permit, by failing to complete proper ACSCE Reports as well as proper Annual Evaluations for the Facility.
- 56. On information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that since at least January 24, 2013, Defendant has failed to implement BAT and BCT at the Facility for its discharges of pH, iron, TSS, O&G, and other potentially un-monitored pollutants. Effluent Limitation B(3) of the 1997 Permit and Effluent Limitation V(A) of the 2015 Permit requires that Defendant implement BAT for toxic and nonconventional pollutants and BCT for conventional pollutants by no later than October 1, 1992. As of the date of this Complaint, Defendant has failed to implement BAT and BCT.
- 57. On information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that since at least January 24, 2013, Defendant has failed to implement an adequate SWPPP for the Facility. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that the SWPPP prepared for the Facility does not set forth site-specific best management practices for the Facility that are consistent with BAT or BCT for the Facility. Plaintiff is informed and

believes, and thereupon alleges, that the SWPPP prepared for the Facility does not comply with the requirements of Section X(H) and X(E) of the 2015 Permit. The SWPPP also fails to identify and implement advanced BMPs that are not being implemented at the Facility because they do not reflect best industry practice considering BAT/BCT. The SWPPP map fails to identify the proper storm water discharge locations. According to information available to CCAEJ, Defendant's SWPPP has not been evaluated to ensure its effectiveness and revised where necessary to further reduce pollutant discharges. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that the SWPPP does not include each of the mandatory elements required by the General Permit.

- 58. Information available to CCAEJ indicates that as a result of these practices, storm water containing excessive pollutants is being discharged during rain events to channels that flow into the Santa Ana River.
- 59. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that Defendant has failed and continues to fail to alter the Facility's SWPPP and site-specific BMPs consistent with the General Permit.
- 60. Information available to Plaintiff indicates that Defendant has not fulfilled the requirements set forth in the General Permit for discharges from the Facility due to the continued discharge of contaminated storm water. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that all of the violations alleged in this Complaint are ongoing and continuous.

VI. <u>CLAIMS FOR RELIEF</u>

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Implement the Best Available and
Best Conventional Treatment Technologies
(Violations of Permit Conditions and the Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311, 1342)

61. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all of the preceding paragraphs as if

fully set forth herein.

- 62. The General Permit's SWPPP requirements and Effluent Limitation B(3) of the 1997 Permit and Effluent Limitation V(A) of the 2015 Permit require dischargers to reduce or prevent pollutants in their storm water discharges through implementation of BAT for toxic and nonconventional pollutants and BCT for conventional pollutants. Defendant has failed to implement BAT and BCT at the Facility for its discharges of pH, iron, TSS, O&G, and other potentially un-monitored pollutants in violation of Effluent Limitation B(3) of the 1997 Permit and Effluent Limitation V(A) of the 2015 Permit.
- 63. Each day since August 18, 2011, that Defendant has failed to develop and implement BAT and BCT in violation of the General Permit is a separate and distinct violation of the General Permit and Section 301(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a).
- 64. Defendant has been in violation of the BAT/BCT requirements every day since August 18, 2011. Defendant continues to be in violation of the BAT/BCT requirements each day that they fail to develop and fully implement BAT/BCT at the Facility.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Discharges of Contaminated Storm Water in Violation of Permit Conditions and the Act (Violations of 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311, 1342)

- 65. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 66. Discharge Prohibition A(2) of the 1997 Permit and Discharge Prohibition III(C) of the 2015 Permit prohibit storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges that cause or threaten to cause pollution, contamination, or nuisance. Receiving Water Limitation C(1) of the 1997 Permit and Receiving Water Limitation VI(B) of the 2015 Permit prohibit storm water discharges to any surface or ground water that adversely impact human health or the environment. Receiving Water

 Limitation C(2) of the 1997 Permit and Receiving Water Limitation VI(A) and Discharge Prohibition III(D) of the 2015 Permit prohibit storm water discharges that cause or contribute to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards contained in Statewide Water Quality Control Plan or the applicable Regional Board's Basin Plan.

- 67. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that since at least February 28, 2014, Defendant has been discharging polluted storm water from the Facility in excess of the applicable water quality standard for pH in violation of Receiving Water Limitation C(2) of the 1997 Permit and Receiving Water Limitation VI(A) and Discharge Prohibition III(D) of the 2015 Permit.
- 68. During every rain event, storm water flows freely over exposed materials, waste products, and other accumulated pollutants at the Facility, becoming contaminated with pH, and other potentially un-monitored pollutants at levels above applicable water quality standards. The storm water then flows untreated to channels that flow into the Santa Ana River, entering the River at either Reach 3 or Reach 4.
- 69. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that these discharges of contaminated storm water are causing or contributing to the violation of the applicable water quality standards in a Statewide Water Quality Control Plan and/or the applicable Regional Board's Basin Plan in violation of Receiving Water Limitation C(2) of the General Permit.
- 70. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that these discharges of contaminated storm water are adversely affecting human health and the environment in violation of Receiving Water Limitation C(1) of the General Permit.
- 71. Every day since at least February 28, 2014, that Defendant has discharged and continue to discharge polluted storm water from the Facility in violation of the General Permit is a separate and distinct violation of Section 301(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a). These violations are ongoing and continuous.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Prepare, Implement, Review, and Update an Adequate Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (Violations of Permit Conditions and the Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311, 1342)

- 72. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 73. The General Permit requires dischargers of storm water associated with industrial activity to develop and implement an adequate SWPPP no later than October 1, 1992.
- 74. Defendant has failed to develop and implement an adequate SWPPP for the Facility. Defendant's ongoing failure to develop and implement an adequate SWPPP for the Facility is evidenced by, *inter alia*, Defendant's failure to justify each minimum and advanced BMP not being implemented.
- 75. Defendant has failed to update the Facility's SWPPP in response to the analytical results of the Facility's storm water monitoring.
- 76. Each day since August 18, 2011, that Defendant has failed to develop, implement and update an adequate SWPPP for the Facility is a separate and distinct violation of the General Permit and Section 301(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a).
- 77. Defendant has been in violation of the SWPPP requirements every day since August 18, 2011. Defendant continues to be in violation of the SWPPP requirements each day that it fails to develop and fully implement an adequate SWPPP for the Facility.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Develop and Implement an Adequate Monitoring and Reporting Program (Violation of Permit Conditions and the Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311, 1342)

78. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

- 79. The General Permit requires dischargers of storm water associated with industrial activity to have developed and be implementing a monitoring and reporting program (including, *inter alia*, sampling and analysis of discharges) no later than October 1, 1992.
- 80. Defendant has failed to develop and implement an adequate monitoring and reporting program for the Facility.
- 81. Defendant's ongoing failure to develop and implement an adequate monitoring and reporting program are evidenced by, *inter alia*, its failure to conduct proper monthly visual observations at the Facility and sample storm water discharges from the correct outfall at the Facility.
- 82. Each day since at least August 18, 2011, that Defendant has failed to develop and implement an adequate monitoring and reporting program for the Facility in violation of the General Permit is a separate and distinct violation of the General Permit and Section 301(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a). The absence of requisite monitoring and analytical results are ongoing and continuous violations of the Act.

VII. RELIEF REQUESTED

Wherefore, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court grant the following relief:

- a. Declare Defendant to have violated and to be in violation of the Act as alleged herein;
- b. Enjoin Defendant from discharging polluted storm water from the Facility unless authorized by the 2015 Permit;
- c. Enjoin Defendant from further violating the substantive and procedural requirements of the 2015 Permit;
- d. Order Defendant to immediately implement storm water pollution control and treatment technologies and measures that are equivalent to BAT or BCT;

- e. Order Defendant to immediately implement storm water pollution control and treatment technologies and measures that prevent pollutants in the Facility's storm water from contributing to violations of any water quality standards;
- f. Order Defendant to comply with the Permit's monitoring and reporting requirements, including ordering supplemental monitoring to compensate for past monitoring violations;
- g. Order Defendant to prepare a SWPPP consistent with the Permit's requirements and implement procedures to regularly review and update the SWPPP;
- h. Order Defendant to provide Plaintiff with reports documenting the quality and quantity of their discharges to waters of the United States and their efforts to comply with the Act and the Court's orders;
- i. Order Defendant to pay civil penalties of up to \$37,500 per day per violation for each violation of the Act since August 18, 2011 pursuant to Sections 309(d) and 505(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(d), 1365(a) and 40 C.F.R. §§ 19.1 -19.4;
- i. Order Defendant to take appropriate actions to restore the quality of waters impaired or adversely affected by their activities;
- k. Award Plaintiff's costs (including reasonable investigative, attorney, witness, compliance oversight, and consultant fees) as authorized by the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(d); and,

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1. Award any such other and further relief as this Court may deem appropriate. Dated: October 17, 2016 Respectfully submitted, _/s/ Douglas J. Chermak By: Douglas J. Chermak LOZEAU DRURY LLP Attorneys for Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

COMPLAINT

EXHIBIT A



T 510.836 4200 F 510.836 4205 410 12th Street, Suit 250 akland 1 94607

n rit is absoluted

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

August 17, 2016

Karl Stockbridge, Chief Executive Officer
Ruchir Shanbhag, Vice President of Engineering/Technology
NewBasis West LLC
2626 Kansas Ave.
Riverside, CA 92507

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

CT Corporation System
Registered Agent for NewBasis West LLC
(Entity Number C0168406)
818 W. 7th St., Ste. 930
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act

Dear Messrs. Stockbridge and Shanbhag and/or the current managers of NewBasis West LLC:

I am writing on behalf of Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice ("CCAEJ") in regard to violations of the Clean Water Act (the "Act") that CCAEJ believes are occurring at NewBasis West LLC's industrial facility located at 2626 Kansas Avenue in Riverside, California ("Facility"). CCAEJ is a non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to working with communities to advocate for environmental justice and pollution prevention. CCAEJ has members living in the community adjacent to the Facility and the Santa Ana River Watershed. CCAEJ and its members are deeply concerned with protecting the environment in and around their communities, including the Santa Ana River Watershed. This letter is being sent to NewBasis West LLC and Ruchir Shanbhag as the responsible owners or operators of the Facility (all recipients are hereinafter collectively referred to as "NewBasis").

This letter addresses NewBasis's unlawful discharge of pollutants from the Facility into channels that flow into the Santa Ana River. The Facility is discharging storm water pursuant to

Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit

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National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") Permit No. CA S000001, State Water Resources Control Board ("State Board") Order No. 97-03-DWQ ("1997 Permit") as renewed by Order No. 2015-0057-DWQ ("2015 Permit"). The 1997 Permit was in effect between 1997 and June 30, 2015, and the 2015 Permit went into effect on July 1, 2015. As explained below, the 2015 Permit maintains or makes more stringent the same requirements as the 1997 Permit. As appropriate, CCAEJ refers to the 1997 and 2015 Permits in this letter collectively as the "General Permit." The WDID identification number for the Facility listed on documents submitted to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region ("Regional Board") is 8 331002605. The Facility is engaged in ongoing violations of the substantive and procedural requirements of the General Permit.

Section 505(b) of the Clean Water Act requires a citizen to give notice of intent to file suit sixty (60) days prior to the initiation of a civil action under Section 505(a) of the Act (33 U.S.C. § 1365(a)). Notice must be given to the alleged violator, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and the State in which the violations occur.

As required by the Clean Water Act, this Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit provides notice of the violations that have occurred, and continue to occur, at the Facility. Consequently, CCAEJ hereby places NewBasis on formal notice that, after the expiration of sixty days from the date of this Notice of Violations and Intent to Sue, CCAEJ intends to file suit in federal court against NewBasis under Section 505(a) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1365(a)), for violations of the Clean Water Act and the General Permit. These violations are described more extensively below.

I. Background.

In its Notice of Intent to Comply with the Terms of the General Permit ("NOI"), NewBasis certifies that the Facility is classified under SIC code 3272. The Facility collects and discharges storm water from its 275,000 square-foot industrial site through at least four outfalls. On information and belief, CCAEJ alleges the out falls contain storm water that is commingled with runoff from the Facility from areas wherein clustrial processes occur. The outfall discharges to channels that flow into the Santa Ana River en tering the river at either Reach 3 or Reach 4.

The Regional Board has identified benefic ial uses of the Santa Ana River and established water quality standards for it in the "Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Region 8)," generally referred to as the Basin Plain. See http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb8/water_issues/pr.ograms/basin_plan/index.shtml. The beneficial uses of these waters include, among others, groun dwater recharge, water contact recreation, noncontact water recreation, wildlife habitat, warn fr eshwater habitat, and rare, threatened or endangered species.

The non-contact water recreation use is defined as "[u]ses of water for recreational activities involving proximity to water, but not no rmally involving contact with water where

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water ingestion is reasonably possible. These uses include, but are not limited to, picnicking, sunbathing, hiking, beachcombing, camping, boating, tidepool and marine life study, hunting, sightseeing, or aesthetic enjoyment in conjunction with the above activities." *Id.* at 3-3. Contact recreation use includes fishing and wading. *Id.*

The Basin Plan includes a narrative toxicity standard which states that "[t]oxic substances shall not be discharged at levels that will bioaccumulate in aquatic resources to levels which are harmful to human health." *Id.* at 4-20. The Basin Plan includes a narrative oil and grease standard which states that "[w]aste discharges shall not result in deposition of oil, grease, wax, or other material in concentrations which result in a visible film or in coating objects in the water, or which cause a nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses." *Id.* at 4-14. The Basin Plan includes a narrative suspended and settleable solids standard which states that "Inland surface waters shall not contain suspended or settleable solids in amounts which cause a nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses..." *Id.* at 4-16. The Basin Plan provides that "[t]he pH of inland surface waters shall not be raised above 8.5 or depressed below 6.5..." *Id.* at 4-18. The Basin Plan contains a narrative floatables standard which states that '[w]aste discharges shall not contain floating materials, including solids, liquids, foam or scum, which cause a nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses." *Id.* at 4-10. The Basin Plan contains a narrative color standard which states that "[w]aste discharges shall not result in coloration of the receiving waters which causes a nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses." *Id.* at 4-10.

The EPA has published benchmark levels as guidelines for determining whether a facility discharging industrial storm water has implemented the requisite best available technology economically achievable ("BAT") and best conventional pollutant control technology ("BCT"). The following benchmarks have been established for pollutants discharged by NewBasis: pH – 6.0 - 9.0 standard units ("s.u."); total suspended solids ("TSS") – 100 mg/L; oil and grease ("O&G") – 15 mg/L; and iron – 1.0 mg/L.

These benchmarks are reflected in the 2015 Permit in the form of Numeric Action Levels ("NALs"). The 2015 Permit incorporates annual NALs, which reflect the 2008 EPA Multi-Sector General Permit benchmark values, and instantaneous maximum NALs, which are derived from a Water Board dataset. The following annual NALs have been established under the 2015 Permit: TSS – 100 mg/L; O&G – 15 mg/L; and iron – 1.0 mg/L. The 2015 Permit also establishes the following instantaneous maximum NALs: pH - 6.0-9.0 s.u.; TSS – 400 mg/L; and oil & grease ("O&G") – 25 mg/L.

Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit

The Benchmark Values can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/msgp2008 finalpermit.pdf.

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II. Alleged Violations of the NPDES Permit.

A. Discharges in Violation of the Permit

NewBasis has violated and continues to violate the terms and conditions of the General Permit. Section 402(p) of the Act prohibits the discharge of storm water associated with industrial activities, except as permitted under an NPDES permit (33 U.S.C. § 1342) such as the General Permit. The General Permit prohibits any discharges of storm water associated with industrial activities or authorized non-storm water discharges that have not been subjected to BAT or BCT. Effluent Limitation B(3) of the 1997 Permit requires dischargers to reduce or prevent pollutants in their storm water discharges through implementation of BAT for toxic and nonconventional pollutants and BCT for conventional pollutants. The 2015 Permit includes the same effluent limitation. See 2015 Permit, Effluent Limitation V(A). BAT and BCT include both nonstructural and structural measures. 1997 Permit, Section A(8); 2015 Permit, Section X(H). Conventional pollutants are TSS, O&G, pH, biochemical oxygen demand, and fecal coliform. 40 C.F.R. § 401.16. All other pollutants are either toxic or nonconventional. Id.; 40 C.F.R. § 401.15.

In addition, Discharge Prohibition A(1) of the 1997 Permit and Discharge Prohibition III(B) of the 2015 Permit prohibit the discharge of materials other than storm water (defined as non-storm water discharges) that discharge either directly or indirectly to waters of the United States. Discharge Prohibition A(2) of the 1997 Permit and Discharge Prohibition III(C) of the 2015 Permit prohibit storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges that cause or threaten to cause pollution, contamination, or nuisance.

Receiving Water Limitation C(1) of the 1997 Permit and Receiving Water Limitation VI(B) of the 2015 Permit prohibit storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges that adversely impact human health or the environment. Receiving Water Limitation C(2) of the 1997 Permit and Receiving Water Limitation VI(A) and Discharge Prohibition III(D) of the 2015 Permit also prohibit storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges that cause or contribute to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards. The General Permit does not authorize the application of any mixing zones for complying with Receiving Water Limitation C(2) of the 1997 Permit and Receiving Water Limitation VI(A) of the 2015 Permit. As a result, compliance with this provision is measured at the Facility's discharge monitoring locations.

NewBasis has discharged and continues to discharge storm water with unacceptable levels of pH, TSS, iron, and O&G in violation of the General Permit. NewBasis's sampling and analysis results reported to the Regional Board confirm discharges of specific pollutants and materials other than storm water in violation of the Permit provisions listed above. Selfmonitoring reports under the Permit are deemed "conclusive evidence of an exceedance of a permit limitation." Sierra Club v. Union Oil, 813 F.2d 1480, 1493 (9th Cir. 1988).

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The following discharges of pollutants from the Facility have contained measurements of pH below the range of the applicable numerical water quality standard established in the Basin Plan. They have thus violated Discharge Prohibitions A(2) and Receiving Water Limitations C(1) and C(2) of the 1997 Permit; Discharge Prohibitions III(C) and III(D) and Receiving Water Limitations VI(A), VI(B), and VI(C) of the 2015 Permit; and are evidence of ongoing violations of Effluent Limitation B(3) of the 1997 Permit, and Effluent Limitation V(A) of the 2015 Permit.

Date	Parameter	Observed Concentration	Basin Plan Water Quality Objective	Outfall (as identified by the Facility)
1/5/2016	рН	6	6.5 - 8.5	Location 1
1/5/2016	pН	6	6.5 – 8.5	Location 2
1/5/2016	рН	6	6.5 – 8.5	Location 3
1/5/2016	рН	6	6.5 - 8.5	Location 4
9/15/2015	рН	6	6.5 - 8.5	Location 1
9/15/2015	рН	6	6.5 - 8.5	Location 2
9/15/2015	рН	6	6.5 – 8.5	Location 3
9/15/2015	pН	6	6.5 - 8.5	Location 4
12/12/2014	рН	6.46	6.5 - 8.5	Location 2
12/2/2014	pН	6.26	6.5 - 8.5	Location 4
2/28/2014	pН	6.36	6.5 - 8.5	Location 2
2/28/2014	рΗ	6.49	6.5 - 8.5	Location 4

The information in the above table reflects data gathered from NewBasis's self-monitoring during the 2013-2014 and 2014-20 5 wet seasons, as well as the 2015-2016 reporting year. CCAEJ alleges that since at least August 16, 2011, and continuing through today, NewBasis has discharged storm water contaminated with pollutants at levels that were below the range of the applicable water quality standard for pH.

The following discharges of pollutants from the Facility have violated Discharge Prohibitions A(1) and A(2) and Receiving Water ILimitations C(1) and C(2) of the 1997 Permit; Discharge Prohibitions III(B) and III(C) and Receiving Water Limitations VI(A) and VI(B) of the 2015 Permit; and are evidence of ongoing violations of Effluent Limitation B(3) of the 1997 Permit and Effluent Limitation V(A) of the 2015 Permit.

Date	Parameter	Observed Concentration	EPA Benchmark Value /Annual NAL	Outfall (as identified by the Facility)
3/11/2016	Total Suspended Solids	353 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 1
3/11/2016	Total Suspended Solids	212 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 2
3/11/2016	Total Suspended Solids	210 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 3

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1/5/2016	Total Suspended Solids	215 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 1
1/5/2016	Total Suspended Solids	377 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 2
1/5/2016	Total Suspended Solids	342 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 3
1/5/2016	Total Suspended Solids	206 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 4
9/15/2015	Total Suspended Solids	619 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 1
9/15/2015	Total Suspended Solids	593 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 2
2015-2016				
reporting	Total Suspended Solids	275 mg/L	100 mg/L	All discharge points ²
year				
12/12/2014	Total Suspended Solids	107 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 1
12/2/2014	Total Suspended Solids	116 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 1
11/21/2013	Total Suspended Solids	211 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 1
11/21/2013	Total Suspended Solids	153 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 3
2/8/2013	Total Suspended Solids	146 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 1
2/8/2013	Total Suspended Solids	106 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 2
2/8/2013	Total Suspended Solids	329 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 4
1/24/2013	Total Suspended Solids	171 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 1
1/24/2013	Total Suspended Solids	225 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 2
1/24/2013	Total Suspended Solids	105 mg/L	100 mg/L	Location 3
11/21/2013	Oil & Grease	28.8 mg/L	15 mg/L	Location 4
2/8/2013	Oil & Grease	17.4 mg/L	15 mg/L	Location 4
3/11/2016	Iron	10.7 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 1
3/11/2016	Iron	2.31 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 2
3/11/2016	Iron	1.5 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 3
1/5/2016	Iron	3.4 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 1
1/5/2016	Iron	16.5 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 2
1/5/2016	Iron	1.51 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 3
1/5/2016	Iron	2.32 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 4
9/15/2015	Iron	26.1 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 1
9/15/2015	Iron	21.8 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 2
9/15/2015	Iron	1.17 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 4
2015-2016				
reporting	Iron	7.4 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	All discharge points ³
year				
12/12/2014	Iron	4.09 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 1
12/12/2014	Iron	1.34 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 3
12/2/2014	Iron	3.14 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 1

² This value represents the average of all TSS measurements taken at the Facility during the 2015-2016 reporting year and is higher than 100 mg/L, the annual NAL for TSS.

³ This value represents the average of all iron measurements taken at the Facility during the 2015-2016 reporting year and is higher than 1.0 mg/L, the annual NAL for iron.

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10/0/0014		0.1	1.0 /7	T .: 0
12/2/2014	Iron	2.1 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 2
12/2/2014	Iron	1.3 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 3
2/28/2014	Iron	1.4 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 2
11/21/2013	Iron	1.97 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 1
11/21/2013	Iron	1.42 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 3
11/21/2013	Iron	1.18 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 4
2/8/2013	Iron	2.61 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 1
2/8/2013	Iron	1.87 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 2
2/8/2013	Iron	1.01 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 3
2/8/2013	Iron	2.62 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 4
1/24/2013	lron	3.74 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 1
1/24/2013	lron	1.56 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 2
1/24/2013	lron	1.8 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 3
1/24/2013	Iron	1.94 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	Location 4

The information in the above table reflects data gathered from NewBasis's self-monitoring during the 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 wet seasons and the 2015-2016 reporting year. Further, CCAEJ notes that for the 2015-2016 reporting year, the Facility has exceeded the instantaneous maximum NAL for TSS, the annual NAL for TSS, and the annual NAL for iron. CCAEJ alleges that since at least August 16, 2011, NewBasis has discharged storm water contaminated with pollutants at levels that exceed the applicable EPA Benchmarks and NALs for pH, TSS, O&G, and iron.

CCAEJ's investigation, including its review of NewBasis's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan ("SWPPP"), NewBasis's analytical results documenting pollutant levels in the Facility's storm water discharges well in excess of applicable water quality standards, and EPA benchmark values and NALs, indicates that NewBasis has not implemented BAT and BCT at the Facility for its discharges of pH, TSS, O&G, iron, and potentially other pollutants in violation of Effluent Limitation B(3) of the 1997 Permit and Effluent Limitation V(A) of the 2015 Permit. NewBasis was required to have implemented BAT and BCT by no later than October 1, 1992, or since the date the Facility opened. Thus, NewBasis is discharging polluted storm water associated with its industrial operations without having implemented BAT and BCT.

In addition, the numbers listed above indicate that the Facility is discharging polluted storm water in violation of Discharge Prohibitions A(1) and A(2) and Receiving Water Limitations C(1) and C(2) of the 1997 Permit; Discharge Prohibitions III(C) and III(D) and Receiving Water Limitations VI(A), VI(B), and VI(C) of the 2015 Permit. CCAEJ alleges that such violations also have occurred and will occur on other rain dates, including on information and belief every significant rain event that has occurred since August 16, 2011, and that will occur at the Facility subsequent to the date of this Notice of Violation and Intent to File Suit. Attachment A, attached hereto, sets forth each of the specific rain dates on which CCAEJ alleges that NewBasis has discharged storm water containing impermissible and unauthorized levels of pH, TSS, O&G, and iron in violation of Section 3.01(a) of the Act as well as Effluent Limitation

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B(3), Discharge Prohibitions A(1) and A(2), and Receiving Water Limitations C(1) and C(2) of the 1997 Permit; and Effluent Limitation V(A), Discharge Prohibitions III(B) and III(C) and Receiving Water Limitations VI(A) and VI(B) of the 2015 Permit.⁴

These unlawful discharges from the Facility are ongoing. Each discharge of storm water containing any of these pollutants constitutes a separate violation of the General Permit and the Act. Each discharge of storm water constitutes an unauthorized discharge of pH, TSS, O&G, iron, and storm water associated with industrial activity in violation of Section 301(a) of the CWA. Each day that the Facility operates without implementing BAT/BCT is a violation of the General Permit. Consistent with the five-year statute of limitations applicable to citizen enforcement actions brought pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act, NewBasis is subject to penalties for violations of the General Permit and the Act since August 16, 2011.

Further, CCAEJ puts NewBasis on notice that 2015 Permit Effluent Limitation V(A) is a separate, independent requirement with which NewBasis must comply, and that carrying out the iterative process triggered by exceedances of the NALs listed at Table 2 of the 2015 Permit does not amount to compliance with the Permit's Effluent Limitations, including NewBasis' obligation to have installed BAT and BCT at the Facility. While exceedances of the NALs demonstrate that a facility is among the worst performing facilities in the State, the NALs do not represent technology based criteria relevant to determining whether an industrial facility has implemented BMPs that achieve BAT/BCT.⁵ Finally, even if NewBasis submits an Exceedance Response Action Plan(s) pursuant to Section XII of the 2015 Permit, the violations of Effluent Limitation V(A) described in this Notice Letter are ongoing.

B. Failure to Develop, Implement, and/or Revise an Adequate Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Facility.

The 1997 Permit requires facility operators to develop and implement an adequate Monitoring and Reporting Program before industrial activities begin at a facility. See 1997 Permit, § B(1). The 2015 Permit includes similar monitoring and reporting requirements. See 2015 Permit, § XI. The primary objective of the IMonitoring and Reporting Program is to both observe and to detect and measure the concentrations of pollutants in a facility's discharge to ensure compliance with the General Permit's discharge prohibitions, effluent limitations, and

Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit

⁴ The rain dates on the attached table are all the days when 0.1" or more rain was observed at a weather station in Riverside, approximately 1.4 miles from the Facility. The data was accessed via http://ipm.ucanr.edu/calludt.cgi/WXDESCXIPTION?STN=UC_RIVER.A (Last accessed on August 15, 2016).

⁵ "The NALs are not intended to serve as technology-based or water quality-based numeric effluent limitations. The NALs are not derived directly from either BAT/BCT requirements or receiving water objectives. NAL exceedances leftined in [the 2015] Permit are not, in and of themselves, violations of [the 2015] Permit." 2015 Permit, Finding 63, p. 11. The NALs do, however, trigger reporting requirements. See 2015 Permit, Section XII.

Karl Stockbridge Ruchir Shanbhag NewBasis West LLC August 17, 2016 Page 9 of 15

receiving water limitations. An adequate Monitoring and Reporting Program therefore ensures that best management practices ("BMPs") are effectively reducing and/or eliminating pollutants at a facility, and is evaluated and revised whenever appropriate to ensure compliance with the General Permit.

Sections B(3)-(16) of the 1997 Permit set forth the monitoring and reporting requirements. As part of the Monitoring Program, all facility operators must conduct visual observations of storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges, and collect and analyze samples of storm water discharges. As part of the Reporting Program, all facility operators must timely submit an Annual Report for each reporting year. The monitoring and reporting requirements of the 2015 Permit are substantially similar to those in the 1997 Permit, and in several instances more stringent.

i. Failure to Conduct Sampling and Analysis

The 1997 Permit requires dischargers to collect storm water samples from all storm water discharge locations during the first hour of discharge from the first storm event of the wet season, and at least one other storm event during the wet season, from all storm water discharge locations at a facility. See 1997 Permit, § B(5). The 2015 Permit now mandates that facility operators sample four (rather than two) storm water discharges from all discharge locations over the course of the reporting year. See 2015 Permit, §§ XI(B)(2), (3). Storm water discharges trigger the sampling requirement under the 1997 Permit when they occur during facility operating hours and are preceded by at least three working days without storm water discharge. See 1997 Permit, § B(5)(b). A sample must be collected from each discharge point at the facility, and in the event that an operator fails to collect samples from the first storm event, the operators must still collect samples from two other storm events and "shall explain in the Annual Report why the first storm event was not sampled." See 1997 Permit, § B(5)(a). The Facility has repeatedly violated these monitoring requirements.

In the 2011-2012 wet season, NewBasis failed to collect samples from any storm water discharges from the Facility. However, on information and belief, CSPA alleges that storm water discharges occurred at the Facility on the following dates during the 2011-2012 wet season:

- October 5, 2011
- November 4, 2011
- December 12, 2011
- February 15, 2012
- February 27, 2012
- April 11, 2012
- April 26, 2012

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In addition, on information and belief, CCAEJ alleges that NewBasis is presently sampling storm water discharges from the wrong location, with respect to one of its outfalls. The current SWPPP map for the Facility indicates that the storm water discharge point marked "X-4" is located in the northeast corner of Building No. 2. However, a map included with the Facility's 2013-2013 Annual Report locates outfall "X-4" at the southwest corner of Building No. 1. On information and belief, CCAEJ alleges that the northeast corner of Building No. 2 is not representative of the Facility's storm water discharges, because this location fails to account for the storm water that flows past resin tanks, the grinding station, and hazardous waste storage, all areas of industrial activity.

The above results in at least 29 violations of the General Permit. These violations of the General Permit are ongoing. Consistent with the five-year statute of limitations applicable to citizen enforcement actions brought pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act, Masonite is subject to penalties for violations of the General Permit and the Act's monitoring and sampling requirements since at least August 16, 2011.

ii. Failure to Conduct Visual Observations of Storm Water Discharges

Section B of the 1997 Permit describes the visual monitoring requirements for storm water discharges. Facilities are required to make monthly visual observations of storm water discharges from all drainage areas (Section B(4)). Section B(7) requires that the visual observations must represent the "quality and quantity of the facility's storm water discharges from the storm event." The requirement to make monthly visual observations of storm water discharges from each drainage area is continued in Section XI(A) of the 2015 Permit.

On information and belief, CCAEJ alleges that NewBasis failed to conduct monthly visual observations of storm water discharges during numerous months during the past five years. On information and belief, based on precipitation data compared to the dates in which the Facility did conduct monthly visual observation of storm water discharges, CCAEJ alleges that NewBasis failed to conduct monthly visual observations of storm water discharges at its storm water discharge locations during the following months:

- 2011 October, November, December
- 2012 February, April, October, December
- 2013 May, October,
- 2014 April, November
- 2015 January

In addition, on April 27, 2015, and May 11, 2015, the Facility reported visual observations of storm water discharges, but, on information and belief, CCAEJ alleges that no discharges occurred at the Facility on those dates. Therefore, NewBasis failed to conduct monthly visual observations at the Facility during those months.

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The above results in at least 50 violations of the General Permit. These violations of the General Permit are ongoing. Consistent with the five-year statute of limitations applicable to citizen enforcement actions brought pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act, NewBasis is subject to penalties for violations of the General Permit and the Act's monitoring and sampling requirements since August 16, 2011.

C. Failure to Complete Annual Comprehensive Site Compliance Evaluation

The 1997 Permit, in relevant part, requires that the Annual Report include an Annual Comprehensive Site Compliance Evaluation Report ("ACSCE Report"). (Section B(14). As part of the ACSCE Report, the facility operator must review and evaluate all of the BMPs to determine whether they are adequate or whether SWPPP revisions are needed. The Annual Report must be signed and certified by a duly authorized representative, under penalty of law that the information submitted is true, accurate, and complete to the best of his or her knowledge. The 2015 Permit now requires operators to conduct an Annual Comprehensive Facility Compliance Evaluation ("Annual Evaluation") that evaluates the effectiveness of current BMPs and the need for additional BMPs based on visual observations and sampling and analysis results. See 2015 Permit, § XV.

Information available to CCAEJ indicates that NewBasis has consistently failed to comply with Section B(14) of the 1997 Permit, and Section XV of the 2015 Permit. None of the Facility's ACSCE Reports provide an explanation of the Facility's failure to take steps to reduce or prevent high levels of pollutants observed in the Facility's storm water discharges. See 1997 Permit Receiving Water Limitation C(3) and C(4) (requiring facility operators to submit a report to the Regional Board describing current and additional BMPs necessary to prevent or reduce pollutants causing or contributing to an exceedance of water quality standards); see also 2015 Permit § X(B)(1)(b). The failure to assess the Facility's BMPs and respond to inadequacies in the ACSCE Reports negates a key component of the evaluation process required in self-monitoring programs such as the General Permit. Instead, NewBasis has not proposed any BMPs that properly respond to EPA benchmark and water quality standard exceedances, in violation of the General Permit.

CCAEJ puts NewBasis on notice that its failures to submit accurate and complete ACSCE Reports are violations of the General Permit and the CWA. NewBasis is in ongoing violation of Section XV of the 2015 Permit every day the Facility operates without evaluating the effectiveness of BMPs and the need for additional BMPs. These violations are ongoing. Each of these violations is a separate and distinct violation of the General Permit and the CWA. NewBasis is subject to civil penalties for all violations of the CWA occurring since at least August 16, 2011.

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D. Failure to Prepare, Implement, Review and Update an Adequate Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

Under the General Permit, the State Board has designated the SWPPP as the cornerstone of compliance with NPDES requirements for storm water discharges from industrial facilities, and ensuring that operators meet effluent and receiving water limitations. Section A(1) and Provision E(2) of the 1997 Permit require dischargers to develop and implement a SWPPP prior to beginning industrial activities that meet all of the requirements of the 1997 Permit. The objective of the SWPPP requirement is to identify and evaluate sources of pollutants associated with industrial activities that may affect the quality of storm water discharges and authorized non-stormwater discharges from the facility, and to implement BMPs to reduce or prevent pollutants associated with industrial activities in storm water discharges and authorized non-stormwater discharges. See 1997 Permit § A(2); 2015 Permit § X(C). These BMPs must achieve compliance with the General Permit's effluent limitations and receiving water limitations. To ensure compliance with the General Permit, the SWPPP must be evaluated and revised as necessary. 1997 Permit §§ A(9), (10); 2015 Permit § X(B). Failure to develop or implement an adequate SWPPP, or update or revise an existing SWPPP as required, is a violation of the General Permit. 2015 Permit Factsheet § I(1).

Sections A(3)-A(10) of the 1997 Permit set forth the requirements for a SWPPP. Among other requirements, the SWPPP must include: a pollution prevention team; a site map; a list of significant materials handled and stored at the site; a description of potential pollutant sources; an assessment of potential pollutant sources; and a description of the BMPs to be implemented at the facility that will reduce or prevent pollutants in storm water discharges and authorized non-stormwater discharges, including structural BMPs where non-structural BMPs are not effective. Sections X(D) – X(I) of the 2015 Permit set forth essentially the same SWPPP requirements as the 1997 Permit, except that all dischargers are now required to develop and implement a set of minimum BMPs, as well as any advanced BMPs as necessary to achieve BAT/BCT, which serve as the basis for compliance with the 2015 Permit's technology-based effluent limitations and receiving water limitations. See 2015 Permit § X(H). The 2015 Permit further requires a more comprehensive assessment of potential pollutant sources than the 1997 Permit; more specific BMP descriptions; and an additional BMP summary table identifying each identified area of industrial activity, the associated industrial pollutant sources, the industrial pollutants, and the BMPs being implemented. See 2015 Permit §§ X(G)(2), (4), (5).

The 2015 Permit requires dischargers to implement and maintain, to the extent feasible, all of the following minimum BMPs in order to reduce or prevent pollutants in industrial storm water discharges: good housekeeping, preventive maintenance, spill and leak prevention and response, material handling and waste management, erosion and sediment controls, an employee training program, and quality assurance and record keeping. See 2015 Permit, § X(H)(1). Failure to implement all of these minimum BMPs is a violation of the 2015 Permit. See 2015 Permit Fact Sheet § I(2)(o). The 2015 Permit further requires dischargers to implement and maintain, to the extent feasible, any one or more of the following advanced BMPs necessary to

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reduce or prevent discharges of pollutants in industrial storm water discharges: exposure minimization BMPs, storm water containment and discharge reduction BMPs, treatment control BMPs, and other advanced BMPs. See 2015 Permit, § X(H)(2). Failure to implement advanced BMPs as necessary to achieve compliance with either technology or water quality standards is a violation of the 2015 Permit. *Id.* The 2015 Permit also requires that the SWPPP include BMP Descriptions and a BMP Summary Table. See 2015 Permit § X(H)(4), (5).

Despite these clear BMP requirements, NewBasis has been conducting and continues to conduct industrial operations at the Facility with an inadequately developed, implemented, and/or revised SWPPP.

The SWPPP fails to comply with the requirements of Section X(H) of the 2015 Permit. The SWPPP fails to implement required advanced BMPs. The SWPPP fails to implement and maintain minimum BMPs to minimize or prevent material tracking from the Facility.

Most importantly, the Facility's storm water samples and discharge observations have consistently exceeded EPA benchmarks and NALs, demonstrating the failure of its BMPs to reduce or prevent pollutants associated with industrial activities in the Facility's discharges. Despite these exceedances, NewBasis has failed to sufficiently update and revise the Facility's SWPPP. The Facility's SWPPP has therefore never achieved the General Permit's objective to identify and implement proper BMPs to reduce or prevent pollutants associated with industrial activities in storm water discharges.

CCAEJ puts NewBasis on notice that it violates the General Permit and the CWA every day that the Facility operates with an inadequately developed, implemented, and/or revised SWPPP. These violations are ongoing, and CCAEJ will include additional violations as information and data become available. NewBasis is subject to civil penalties for all violations of the CWA occurring since August 16, 2011.

III. Persons Responsible for the Violations.

CCAEJ puts NewBasis West LLC, Karl Stockbridge and Ruchir Shanbhag on notice that they are the persons responsible for the violations described above. If additional persons are subsequently identified as also being responsible for the violations set forth above, CCAEJ puts NewBasis West LLC, Karl Stockbridge and Ruchir Shanbhag on notice that it intends to include those subsequently identified persons in this action.

IV. Name and Address of Noticing Parties.

The name, address and telephone number of the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice is as follows:

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Penny Newman
Executive Director
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice
P.O. Box 33124
Jurupa Valley, CA 92519
Tel. (951) 360-8451

V. Counsel.

CCAEJ has retained legal counsel to represent it in this matter. Please direct all communications to:

Douglas J. Chermak Michael R. Lozeau Lozeau Drury LLP 410 12th Street, Suite 250 Oakland, California 94607 Tel. (510) 836-4200 doug@lozeaudrury.com michael@lozeaudrury.com

VI. Penalties.

Pursuant to Section 309(d) of the Act (33 U.S.C. § 1319(d)) and the Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation (40 C.F.R. § 19.4) each separate violation of the Act subjects NewBasis to a penalty of up to \$37,500 per day per violation for all violations. In addition to civil penalties, CCAEJ will seek injunctive relief preventing further violations of the Act pursuant to Sections 505(a) and (d) (33 U.S.C. §1365(a) and (d)) and such other relief as permitted by law. Lastly, Section 505(d) of the Act (33 U.S.C. § 1365(d)), permits prevailing parties to recover costs and fees, including attorneys' fees.

CCAEJ believes this Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit sufficiently states grounds for filing suit. CCAEJ intends to file a citizen suit under Section 505(a) of the Act against NewBasis and its agents for the above-referenced violations upon the expiration of the 60-day notice period. However, during the 60-day notice period, CCAEJ would be willing to discuss effective remedies for the violations noted in this letter. If you wish to pursue such discussions in the absence of litigation, CCAEJ suggests that you initiate those discussions within the next 20 days so that they may be completed before the end of the 60-day notice

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period. CCAEJ does not intend to delay the filing of a complaint in federal court if discussions are continuing when that period ends.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Chermak Lozeau Drury LLP Attorneys for Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit

SERVICE LIST - via certified mail

Gina McCarthy, Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

Thomas Howard, Executive Director State Water Resources Control Board P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Loretta Lynch, U.S. Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20530-0001

Alexis Strauss, Acting Regional Administrator U.S. EPA – Region 9 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA, 94105

Kurt V. Berchtold, Executive Officer Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board 3737 Main Street, Suite 500 Riverside, CA 92501-3348

ATTACHMENT A

Rain Dates, NewBasis West LLC, Riverside, CA

10/5/2011	2/19/2013	4/25/2015
11/4/2011	3/8/2013	4/27/2015
11/6/2011	5/6/2013	5/8/2015
11/12/2011	10/9/2013	5/14/2015
11/20/2011	11/21/2013	7/18/2015
12/12/2011	12/7/2013	7/19/2015
1/21/2012	2/6/2014	9/9/2015
1/23/2012	2/28/2014	9/15/2015
2/15/2012	3/1/2014	10/4/2015
2/27/2012	4/1/2014	10/5/2015
3/17/2012	4/2/2014	11/2/2015
3/18/2012	4/25/2014	11/25/2015
4/11/2012	8/20/2014	12/13/2015
4/13/2012	11/21/2014	12/19/2015
4/25/2012	12/2/2014	12/22/2015
4/26/2012	12/3/2014	12/29/2015
8/30/2012	12/4/2014	1/5/2016
10/11/2012	12/12/2014	1/6/2016
11/8/2012	12/17/2014	1/7/2016
12/12/2012	12/30/2014	1/31/2016
12/13/2012	1/11/2015	2/17/2016
12/24/2012	1/26/2015	3/6/2016
12/29/2012	2/22/2015	3/7/2016
1/24/2013	2/23/2015	3/11/2016
1/25/2013	3/2/2015	4/8/2016
2/8/2013	4/7/2015	